

MATCH REPORT

Aston Rowant vs. Gerrards Cross

1st September 2007

Gerrards Cross 248-8 (56 overs) – Aston Rowant 159-10 (36.4 overs)
Gerrards Cross won by 89 runs

Gerrards Cross ensured that the race for the Sommers UK Home Counties Division Two West title will go to the last game of the season on Saturday with an 89 run victory over now relegated Aston Rowant.

Both teams could not afford to lose this match. The Cross needed to win to stay in the title race and Aston Rowant needed the points to avoid relegation. The scene was set for a terrific match and negative cricket was not the order of the day.

The Cross' innings started badly when Alex Hales ran himself out in the second over. However, a second wicket stand of 62 between Mark Wright (45) and Alan Duncan (20) put the Cross in control. Wright was beginning to dominate when he was bowled by Tom Needham (5-69) with one that cut back. Needham then trapped Duncan leg before and Simon Bird had Stuart Welch caught in the slips to leave the Cross reeling at 88-4.

Malky Dhaliwal (69*) and Steve Cooper (22) led a recovery, with a fifth wicket stand of 44, when disaster struck. The Cross collapsed from 132-4 to 141-8 and were now staring defeat in the face. Enter Cross skipper Jon Newell. He unleashed a series of powerful shots and shared a record ninth wicket stand of 107 with Dhaliwal. Newell finished unbeaten on 66 and the Cross declared after 56 overs with an imposing total of 248-8. The new record ninth wicket stand beat the previous best of 93 by Richard Graham and Richard Pyne against Hounslow in 1990.

Aston Rowant's reply started at top speed as Tim Morgan (19) and Alex Jewell (48) smashed 70 off 13 overs. But the Cross struck back. Ben Ingrey had Morgan caught behind and then bowled Dominic Telo for a second ball duck. Newell (3-34) then had the dangerous Jewell caught at slip and Rowant had lost three wickets for no runs in nine balls.

Ingrey soon picked up three more wickets, to finish with figures of 5-61. Newell removed Needham and Tim Foster in the space of three balls and Rowant were in disarray at 142-8. Chris Watling (40) tried to rescue the situation for Rowant with a succession of boundaries but was well caught by Newell in the deep. Welch then ran out Paul Plumridge to give the Cross a hard-earned victory.

This win combined with Tring Park's draw with Kidlington means the Cross now lead the table with Tring in second place. The Cross play host to Tring next week in a top of the table clash, the winner will be crowned Division Two West champions.

ASTON ROWANT v GERRARDS CROSS - HCPCL Division 2

Venue: The Butts, Kingston Blount, Aston Rowant
Dates: 1st September 2007
Toss won by: Aston Rowant
Umpires: A English, M Warren

Gerrards Cross Innings

				FOW	
Wright M		b Needham	45	1st	15
Hales A		run out	3	2nd	77
Duncan A		lbw b Needham	20	3rd	87
Dhaliwal M		not out	69	4th	88
Welch S	c Morgan	b Bird	1	5th	132
Cooper S +		b Needham	22	6th	134
Hughes J		b Needham	0	7th	134
Hall-Drinkwater L		b Needham	0	8th	141
Ingrey B	c Watling	b Bird	4	9th	
Newell J *		not out	66	10th	
Bracey S					

Extras (2 byes, 4 leg byes, 5 wides, 7 no balls): 18

Total (8 wickets declared) : 248

Bowling Figures	Overs	Mdns	Runs	Wkts		Overs	Mdns	Runs	Wkts
Bird	19	5	75	2	Morgan	2	0	17	0
Dutton	9	3	34	0					
Needham	14	2	69	5					
Foster	5	0	24	0					
Watling	4	0	10	0					
Humphreys	3	1	13	0					

Aston Rowant Innings

				FOW	
Morgan T	c Cooper	b Ingrey	19	1st	70
Jewell A +	c Welch	b Newell	48	2nd	70
Telo D		b Ingrey	0	3rd	70
Watling C	c Newell	b Wright	40	4th	79
Eaton C	c Cooper	b Ingrey	6	5th	99
Bird S	c Hughes	b Ingrey	10	6th	115
Plumridge P		lbw b Ingrey	13	7th	142
Needham T	c Hughes	b Newell	9	8th	142
Foster T	c Welch	b Newell	0	9th	154
Humphreys P *		run out	7	10th	159
Dutton R		not out	0		

Extras (2 byes, 5 leg byes): 7

Total: 159

Bowling Figures	Overs	Mdns	Runs	Wkts
Ingrey	14	1	61	5
Duncan	5	2	32	0
Newell	13	4	34	3
Wright	4.4	0	25	1

GERRARDS CROSS WON BY 89 RUNS